

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Prior to this Amendment, Claims 1-23 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 10 and 14 were written in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner objected to Claims 5 and 11, but would allow these claims if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Please cancel Claims 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 16-21 without prejudice. Please amend Claims 1, 10 and 14 as set forth herein. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-2, 6, 10, 13-15 and 22-23 are currently pending herein, of which Claims 1, 10 and 14 are the independent claims.

Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-23, as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0227978 to *Magee et al.* (hereinafter *Magee*) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/2003/0231714 to *Kjeldsen et al.* (hereinafter *Kjeldsen*). In response, Applicants have amended the claims in light of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5 and 11, now cancelled.

Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended as shown herein to incorporate the recitations of Claim 5, now cancelled, which was objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Claim 1 is allowable, as well as Claims 2 and 6, which depend on Claim 1.

Claim 10 has been amended as shown herein to incorporate at least the recitations of Claim 11, now cancelled, which was also objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Claim 10 is allowable, as well as dependent Claim 13.

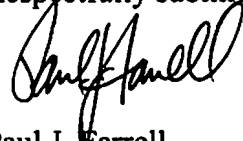
Claim 14 has been amended as shown herein to incorporate the recitations of Claims 16 and 19, now cancelled. It is respectfully asserted that Claim 19, now cancelled and inserted into

Claim 14, actually claimed in different words similar subject matter to that of Claim 5, now cancelled and inserted into Claim 1, even though the recitation formerly in Claim 19 was expressed differently than the recitation formerly in Claim 5. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 5, it is respectfully asserted that the incorporation of cancelled Claim 19 into amended Claim 14 renders Claim 14 allowable over the cited combination. For at least the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-23 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 10 and 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2, 6, 13, 15 and 22-23, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 6, 13, 15 and 22-23 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 13-15, 22 and 23, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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